

T.A.F.C. AMONG ENGLISH SHOP GIRLS

(Continued from page seventeen.)

practically permits of no home life whatever. Men assistants in England are not permitted to marry without the consent of their firm, and those who marry frequently are compelled to lead double lives. They must pretend to be bachelors and live in, and it is not unusual for men to be discharged immediately on the discovery of their marriage. One instance is cited of a man who lived in four years, only seeing his wife and children on Sundays, and then clandestinely. He was discharged when his firm learned of his conduct. The men are herded in barracks, and not having any family life drift into all sorts of undesirable associations. In addition to this unspeakable situation, they are deprived of the rights of citizenship, as persons living in lodging houses under such circumstances are not entitled to the franchise. They thus lose the opportunity of obtaining, through their votes, legislation which might better their condition.

BOARDING ARRANGEMENTS.

If the sleeping accommodation is bad, the boarding arrangements are even worse. Most of the big shops feed their own assistants—for a consideration. The all-around report on this subject says: "In many cases the food supplied is scanty, ill-cooked and lacking in variety, and assistants often find it necessary to supplement food given them by private purchases." In fact, in many establishments this custom of purchasing extras is encouraged and a commission is paid to waiters who succeed in selling foodstuff outside the regular meals provided by the house. There is not only profit on the meals themselves, but on the extras. The evidence of a Mr. Hoffmann, one of the government witnesses before the truck commission, deals with this subject in convincing language. Speaking of his own experience, he says:

INSUFFICIENT FOOD.

"I remember well one Sunday at— the pressed beef placed before us glittered with all the colors of the rainbow and smelt very offensively. Breakfast as a general rule everywhere consists of bread and butter, or margarine, with tea or coffee, or chocolate, and coffee drawn from huge urns. Though some firms do allow little extras, or, as they are sometimes called, 'luxuries,' for breakfast (such as two eggs for men, and one egg for the women) the sameness of the menu becomes positively wearying. One always knows what there is for dinner by the day of the week, or gets to know the day of the week by what there is for dinner. In a large number of cases, the food provided is insufficient for the physical needs of the employee; so insufficient that varying amounts of from 2 shillings (50 cents) to 6 shillings (\$1.50) per week are spent in addition to the food supplied. The surprising thing is that different firms admit this by supplying extras to the assistants at a price. The waiters at the tables receive 50 per annum as salary, and are told they will be able to make extra by selling things to the assistants. Thus, rashers of bacon are sold for two and a halfpence, eggs one and a halfpence, and a halfpenny for jam, one penny for two sardines, one and a halfpenny, and so on."

The government committee further states in its report: "A case was brought to our notice in which a shopkeeper had on the premises where his assistants were lodged, presumably for their consumption, the carcass of a sheep which was unfit for human food." This particular shopkeeper was fined \$25 in an action, but the high court on appeal reversed the decision, on the ground that as the meat was not publicly offered for sale there was no infringement of the pure food act.

SYSTEM OF FINES.

As if the food and lodging were not sufficient cause for complaint on the part of their unhappy shop slaves, many firms, even of the better class, resort to a tyrannous and arbitrary system of fines, by which the workers are further penalized. For instance, one firm recently fined a woman clerk 12 cents because her collar came untied. On the other hand, one of the James Seddon, M. P., who has taken up the cudgels in favor of the shop girls, recently said in the course of an interview:

"There is a firm in London which has a list of 150 fines. An agent could not avoid some of them. Disciplinary fines are a cunning device to get back from the assistant a portion of her scanty wages. In some shops the employees are mulcted (24 a shilling (24 cents) for leaving food which they are unable to eat. I know of one case where girls are fined a shilling for omitting to ex-

tinguish their light at night. This is a common practice in the dormitories, and it is also common to fine a clerk anything from sixpence up to a shilling for allowing a customer to walk out of a shop without making a purchase. Shop girls, as well as men, are often held responsible for losses on goods, and even in some cases for pilfering, if anything is taken away without the clerk's being aware of it. In many places shop girls are fined for smiling."

TYPICAL OFFENSES.

Girls also are fined for sneezing, wearing curlers in their hair, or any slight untidiness. One London millinery shop fines its young ladies 12s. if they are caught coming down the stairs in two instead of singly. In fact, the list of fines depends entirely upon the whim of the manager of each establishment; and the wretched wages of the assistants often are reduced to a scant sum. There is one case on record where a shop girl was fined so heavily that she actually owed the firm at the end of the business week.

In considering the entire matter, the use of the term white-slavery may not be accepted as an expression only mildly descriptive of the condition of English shop assistants; both men and women. Of course, there are a few good houses which treat their employees with some degree of consideration, but they are the exceptions which prove the rule.

Pent up in their immense barracks dormitories, with no home life, or else driven on the streets, it is remarkable that the shop women of England retain a vestige of virtue. Only their native honor as a class saves them from becoming the most degraded creatures in the social structure.

W. B. NORTHROP.

REV. I. W. WILLIAMSON'S LETTER

Rev. I. W. Williamson, Huntington, W. V., writes: "This is to certify that I used Foley's Kidney Remedy for nervous exhaustion and kidney trouble and am free to say that it will do all that P. F. H. Hill Drug Co. (The never substitutes.) Salt Lake City.

SERBIAN PRINCE'S LATEST ESCAPE

(Continued from page seventeen.)

object on the throne?" is a question asked by the man in the street 10 times a day. Others tell you that Prince George was the one man for Serbia and that his brother, Prince Alexander, will be afraid of everybody and everything. Now the majority of Serbians declare that Prince George was right to kick his valet. "I would have done the same myself," is the verdict today. "The man was a spy and it is a pity the prince was not armed as he would have shot him at once."

Of course the people who read the Austrian version have no opportunity of learning the truth. The prince is in the hands of the Austrians. These are very grave faults in a modern king, and he has another quality which is also against him in days when diplomacy is more powerful than the sword. He is not only truthful, but very outspoken. He will tell you of his faults far more readily than of his virtues. He too often forgets that the position he filled made such candor dangerous.

MAN OF ACTION.

In summing him up it would, perhaps, be best to say that he is a soldierly nature of the old days, a man of action, rather than reflection, more ready to fight for a cause than intrigue for it. This is the impression I have gathered when speaking to him and unbiased persons who know Prince George agree with me. Not that he is by any means perfect. As he himself says, he is very rough. Not long ago he had a passage at arms with one of the last king's regicides. "When I come to the throne all those murderers will leave the court!" he



COUNTESS ALEXANDRA BERNSTORFF

Daughter of the German Ambassador to the United States.

declared, in one of the regicide's hearing.

The regicide said he dare not.

"We shall see," retorted the prince. "Here is a sample of what I dare do!" And he boxed the regicide's ears. Now the man in question stands more than six feet in his socks and is broad in proportion. He went for the prince and thrashed him as the latter is not very robustly built.

A LITTLE TOO SWIFT.

The officers and people about the court are afraid of the prince so because of his impetuosity. He likes swift movement. That is why he bought a motor car, though Serbian roads are by no means fitted for them, being as bad as any in Europe. Of course, when Prince George invites some of his father's subjects for a spin it is not etiquette to refuse. But these expeditions are very dangerous. Not many years ago he invited an old general who is quite a veteran and, in the prince's eyes, a great hero because of his services to Serbia when she threw off the foreign yoke. A poet, who is also a friend of the prince's and a young officer of the royal household, completed the party. The prince drove himself. All went fairly well for some time, though they got a good deal of bumping. All the prince, excited with the rapid movement, determined to go full speed, though the general protested.

The prince is not a good driver and he soon ran into a wall with such force that the car overturned and the four occupants were hurled out. The prince and the poet received many bruises, the young officer came off unscathed, but the veteran general was seriously injured. When the prince saw what harm he had caused his old friend, the tears stood in his eyes and he was so out that he went about miserably for days. Then he promised himself he would never drive anybody again. Happily the old general soon recovered from his injuries, but the impetuous person who caused them has not yet forgiven himself.

The poet declares that, etiquette or no etiquette, nothing on earth will induce him to go motoring with the prince again. "But I'm sure he won't ask me," he continued. "The prince always keeps his word and he told me he will never motor, unless quite alone, without a chauffeur." Others about the court are very much relieved at this decision, and there were four royal spies in the winter.

FRANCIS LEONARD.

MARKET PRIVATE PROPERTY OF A DUKE

(Continued from page seventeen.)

English law which permitted such an injustice.

UNJUST LAWS.

On the Bedford property, situated in the very heart of London, all sorts of unjust laws and enactments prevail. For instance, the duke's estate includes Russell square; and no one can build in this square, which is supplied by the duke himself. Another remarkable provision in the leases granted by the duke is that all buildings at the end of the term become the property of the ground lord. Thus a tenant may put up on the duke's land a building costing a million dollars; and at the end of the term he will leave the building to the duke, who will then lease it to the next tenant for the same sum as if he had built it himself. This very convenient method of getting someone else to make him a present of buildings has worked out in such a way that today the Duke of Bedford owns not only practically all the land of west central London in the neighborhood of Covent Garden, Russell and Bloomsbury squares, but also of the houses which have come into his possession at the expiration of his tenants' leases.

What adds greatly to the revenue of the Duke of Bedford is the fact that a large number of theaters are on his property. He charges enormous ground rents for these structures, and exercises almost tyrannous control over them. Several of these places have had to shut down owing to their inability to pay these rents, the rents eating up all the profits.

As a rule, Londoners take very little interest in questions of social economy; and the duke is quite content to let the Duke of Bedford enjoy his enormous revenues so long as they do not find themselves directly affected by his ownership. But, the control of Covent Garden market by the duke brings the matter home to the dinner table of every Londoner; and the duke's tolls on London fruit and vegetables are an actual tax on the pockets of the people. That is why the question of taxing the duke on his London property—and particularly on his revenues from Covent Garden—has recently become such a popular measure.

FIELD FOR LOCAL COLOR.

Quite aside from the duke's connection with Covent Garden, the market itself is one of the most interesting places in London. American visitors frequently go to the market as early as 2 o'clock in the morning to witness the curious scenes there presented. The market is full of "characters," and the market porters and flower women have often been depicted by the pens of artists and writers. Dickens, Thackeray, Charles Lamb, and, in the earlier days, Washington Irving, have all written of romance around the market. In the days of Dr. Johnson, the neighborhood of the market was the center of the literary gatherings of the day, immediately adjoining the market

stood some of the most famous coffee shops, such as "Wills," "Toms" and "Battens," where, every night after the theater would rather the great wits, playwrights, statesmen and poets of the day. It was in a coffee tavern "The Castle" in Henrietta street, almost facing the market—that Richard Brinsley Sheridan fought his famous duel with Captain Matthews for the hand of Miss Linley of Bath, who Sheridan subsequently married. Sheridan broke the captain's sword and made the conquered man plead for his life. Among dramatic writers of the early days, Covent Garden was the mecca of all their meetings. The market today is surrounded by a number of old hotels which have played their part in history. The portico of one of these hostleries—today known as the Tavistock—was built by the famous architect, Inigo Jones, who also constructed the portico of St. Paul's church which stands facing the market.

LOUIS HYF.

HUNTING SEA ELEPHANTS.

Probably the strangest occupation on record is sea-elephant hunting. How many landspeople have ever heard the name sea-elephant, or know that such an animal existed? Yet, according to Hampton's Magazine, these practically unknown animals dwell in great numbers on the icebergs and floes in the Antarctic regions. The capital of the sea elephant world, so to say, is Kerguelen Land, 2,000 miles east by south from Cape Town. Describing the monster beasts of which the sea elephants are the most numerous, Capt. Benjamin D. Cleveland writes for Hampton's:

"It is now November, the beginning of the mating season, and the male and female elephants have diverged themselves on to the beaches, where they lie in great 'pods.' I have seen as many as 75 to 100 massed in such a bunch. This is also the shedding season, and the animals rub their hair from their thick hides in preparation for the new coat. The female and the young have no distinguishing trunk; and the male only after he has reached the age of three years. It is really scarcely a trunk; it is more like a flabby snout, and is only about 15 inches in length. It elongates, however, whenever the animal gets excited-looking, money-yielding brute is often confused with the walrus, which as a matter of fact it resembles only in size. Its two rows of teeth, or tusks, those of the bull are between six and seven inches long in front, and grow shorter toward the back of the jaws. The tusks do not project like those of the walrus. The largest elephant I ever encountered was 16 feet in length and about six feet high at the shoulders.

The sea elephant has large eyes, surmounted by huge brows. Its forward flippers, two in number, are armed with five nails each, but the aft ones have not even rudimentary nails. The animal when on shore moves with a hobbling, rolling motion, its whole body quivering like jelly, but it navigates the water with almost the ability of an eel. It feeds on cuttlefish and mollusks.

"When you stop to think that the cuttlefish of tropical waters sometimes attains a weight of two tons, you will realize the strength of its jaws.

"Having feasted for many months upon these grim delicacies of the deep, the bull elephants hobble out on to the beaches, and, in the mating season, engage in fierce battles.

"Our purpose is to reach the island about the time that the sea elephant lands. His blubber—the layer of fat immediately under the hide—is then seven inches thick on an average. Upon this fat the animal subsists for six or eight weeks, at the end of which time it is reduced to a thickness of barely two inches. The fat of the female is by no means so thick proportionately, and she is little more than half as large as her lord and master. The female gives birth to young twice a year, and suckles them like a whale. It is best to kill the female first, and the male will then lie around supinely; while if the male is killed first the females take helterskelter, though awkward, flight."

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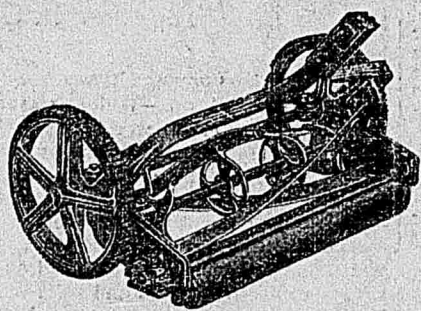
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